

Amendments to the Specification

The paragraph starting at page 3, line 10 and ending at line 16 has been amended as follows.

That is, the deteriorated developer (carrier) is gradually changed with fresh material, ~~[[one,]]~~ whereby the progression of the apparent deterioration of the carrier is stopped and as to the entire developer, the characteristic thereof is stabilized. Thereby, the work of interchanging the developer is made unnecessary and a maintenance property is improved.

The paragraph starting at page 9, line 21 and ending at page 10, line 9 has been amended as follows.

The developing container 2 is comparted into a first chamber 2e which is a developing chamber near ~~[[to]]~~ the developing sleeve 3 and a second chamber 2f which is an agitating chamber, by a partition wall 2g, and a first carrying screw 2a which is a first carrying member and a second carrying screw 2b which is a second carrying member are disposed in the first chamber 2e and the second chamber 2f, respectively. The developer is circulated and agitated in the developing container 2 by the first carrying screw 2a and the second carrying screw 2b. The direction of circulation of the developer is a direction from this side of Fig. 1 toward the inner side thereof on the first carrying screw 2a side, and is a direction from the inner side of Fig. 1 toward this side thereof on the second carrying screw 2b side.

The paragraph starting at page 10, line 21 and ending at page 11, line 2 has been amended as follows.

If the proportion ~~ratio~~ of the carrier of the supplied developer becomes great, the substituting amount of the carrier becomes great by the supply of the same amount of toner, and the two-component developer in the developing apparatus 1 approximates ~~[[to]]~~ a fresh state, but correspondingly thereto, the consumed amount of the carrier becomes great. Therefore, in respective developing apparatuses, it is preferable to discretely determine the mixing ratio.

The paragraph starting at page 16, line 3 and ending at line 10 has been amended as follows.

Description will now be made of a change in the level of the developer when the developer is discharged through the developer discharge port, such as when the level of the developer in places ~~[[the]]~~ other ~~places~~ than the discharge port has become unstable due to the amount of developer or the bulk density having changed, which is a characteristic feature ~~portion~~ of the present embodiment.

The paragraph starting at page 17, line 9 and ending at page 18, line 4 has been amended as follows.

Accordingly, when the second carrying screw is rotated to thereby carry the developer, the level of the developer in the case of the normal amount of developer becomes such as indicated by solid line A. That is, the level of the developer is low near

the developer discharge port 2d and the screw vanes are exposed. On the other hand, the level of the developer is high in the areas upstream and downstream of the vicinity of the developer discharge port 2d in the developer carrying direction and the screw vanes are embedded in the developer. Accordingly, it becomes possible to adopt a construction for gradually interchanging the developer, yet not ~~[[yet]]~~ increase the amount of developer to be contained in the developing container, and when, ~~when~~ for example, an image forming job for continuously forming a plurality of solid images (maximum density images) is to be performed, it is possible to prevent faulty image forming in which image density becomes high due to the deficient amount of electrifying changes of the toner attributable to the faulty agitation of the developer, without lowering the throughput of image forming.

The paragraph starting at page 19, line 19 and ending at page 20, line 9 has been amended as follows.

For example, when the ribs 2c are uniformly installed on the portions other ~~portions~~ than the portions of the first carrying screw 2a and the second carrying screw 2b which are opposed to the discharge port 2d in the axial direction thereof, there may be adopted a construction in which the ribs 2c are installed so that in the portions opposed to the discharge port, the mounting interval may differ from that in the other portions, and in such a construction, as in the above-described embodiment, the developer carrying capability of that portion of the second carrying screw 2b which is opposed to the discharge port 2d can be made greater than the developer carrying capability in the areas upstream and downstream of the vicinity of the developer discharge port 2d in the developer carrying

direction and therefore, an effect similar to that of the above-described embodiment can be obtained.